

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title and before line 3, please insert the following new heading and subheading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, at line 6, please insert the following new subheading:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

On page 5, at line 20, please insert the following new subheading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 5, at line 27, please insert the following new subheadings and paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a graph showing the biodegradation performance of a series of C₁₂-C₁₃-FT alcohols with varying amounts of -EO-PO.

Fig. 2 is a graph comparing the biodegradation of an FT alcohol -EO-PO derivative compared with a traditional alcohol-EO-PO.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

On page 10, beginning at line 18, please amend the following paragraph as follows:

Suitable nonionic surfactants include adducts of ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide with alkylphenols, oxo alcohols or natural or Ziegler alcohols, fatty acids, fatty amines and fatty acid amides. The adducts of 3 to 15 mol of ethylene oxide with coconut and tallow fatty alcohols, with oleyl alcohol or with synthetic alcohols having 8 to 18 C atoms are particularly preferred. Also alcohol-EO-POs already on the market, as they are sold under the trade names BIODAC~~Biodac~~[®] and MARLOX~~Marlox~~[®] (Sasol), PLURAFAC~~Plurafac~~[®] LF (BASF) and DEHYPON~~Dehypon~~[®] LS (Cognis), and other suppliers can be used. Besides this also high-ethoxylated tallow fatty alcohols or fatty alcohol ethoxylates that are end-capped by alkyl groups can be used as additional wetting agents. Surfactants of the type comprising the C8 to C18-alkylpolyglucosides and amine oxides may also be used.

On page 13, beginning at line 7, please amend the following paragraphs as follows:

BIODAC~~Biodac~~[®] 40 is an alcohol EO-PO based on a linear Ziegler-alcohol, with an alkyl chain having 10 carbon atoms, ethoxylated with 4 moles of ethylene oxide and propoxylated with 2 mole of propylene oxide.

ISOFOL~~Isfol~~® 12-IPO-4EO is based on a branched Guerbet alcohol, with an alkyl chain having 12 carbon atoms, propoxylated with 1 mole propylene oxide and then ethoxylated with 4 moles of ethylene oxide.

Compared to the C12-C13 FT alcohol-EO-POs of the present invention BIODAC~~Biodac~~ 40 and ISOFOL~~Isfol~~® 12-1PO-4EO showed a lower biodegradation level at the end of the 28 day period. Both BIODAC~~Biodac~~® 40 and ISOFOL~~Isfol~~ 12-IPO-4EO did not reach the 60 % level for "ready" biodegradation:

- BIODAC~~Biodac~~® 40 reached 48 % at the end of the 10-day window
- ISOFOL~~Isfol~~® 12-IPO-4EO reached 42 % at the end of the 10-day window.